United Nations S/PV.5948

Security Council

Sixty-third year

Provisional

5948th meeting

Monday, 4 August 2008, 11.25 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Grauls	(Belgium)
Members:	Burkina Faso	Mr. Kafando
	China	Mr. Li Kexin
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Skračić
	France	Mr. Lacroix
	Indonesia	Mr. Natalegawa
	Italy	Mr. Mantovani
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Mubarak
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Shcherbak
	South Africa	Ms. Qwabe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mr. Wolff
	Viet Nam	Mr. Le Luong Minh

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Sixth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (S/2008/281)

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08-44826 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.25 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President (*spoke in French*): As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of August 2008, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Le Luong Minh, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of July 2008. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Minh for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Sixth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (S/2008/281)

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Sierra Leone, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Pemagbi (Sierra Leone) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2008/512, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations. Members also have before them document S/2008/281, which contains the sixth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Belgium, Burkina Faso, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Indonesia, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Panama, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam

The President (*spoke in French*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1829 (2008).

I now give the floor to the representative of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Pemagbi (Sierra Leone): The delegation of the Republic of Sierra Leone wishes to express its profound appreciation to the Security Council for the resolution that has just been adopted. We warmly welcome the resolution, mainly because it marks another significant phase in the United Nations experiment in post-conflict peacebuilding, with Sierra Leone as the laboratory. In particular, the transformation of the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) into an integrated peacebuilding outfit, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), on the basis of the achievement of carefully measured benchmarks is a reassuring indication of the country's progress in consolidating peace and stability.

Since the armed conflict ended in 2002, Sierra Leone has conducted two democratic presidential, parliamentary and local council elections, and has made considerable efforts to revive the economy, to recover from the ravages of the war and to relaunch the country on the path of development. We have not done those things alone. We thank the United Nations and our other international community partners, as well as our bilateral supporters, for their investment in the efforts to achieve lasting peace, to pursue the ideals of

democracy and human rights and to lift Sierra Leone from the bottom of the human development index.

We have made gains, but we are far from having crossed the bridge. As an example, we need sustained support to achieve the goals set in the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, namely, those related to developing the energy, justice and security sectors, youth employment and integration, governance and capacity-building in the public service. It is no overstatement to suggest that a gap will appear in the success story of the United Nations in Sierra Leone if the goals in those priority areas, set by Sierra Leone and the Peacebuilding Commission, are not fully accomplished. I assure members that the Government and the people of Sierra Leone remain firmly committed to fulfilling their own part of the agreement.

Finally, for Sierra Leone and many countries in a similar situation and with similar experiences, the current food and oil crises pose potential risks to peace and security that the Council can ill afford to ignore. Already, the crises have stretched our fragile economy nearly to the limits of its elasticity. We need more help.

The President (*spoke in French*): There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.